

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 3 and 8, cancels claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9 and adds new claim 10. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 3, 8 and 10.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe (U.S. Patent No. 6,223,347); claim 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Sunaga (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,675); claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bayrakeri (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,602) in view of Tewfik (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,283); claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Bayrakeri; and claims 6-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Macleod Beck (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0013041) in view of Matsumoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,877). As indicated above claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9 were cancelled. Therefore, the above-noted rejections of claims 1, 2 4-7 and 9 are rendered moot. Further, the above noted rejections of the remaining claims 3 and 8 are traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 3 and 8 are not taught or suggested by Bayrakeri, Tewfik, Macleod Beck and Matsumoto whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to the claims so as to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a method and a communication system including a

client terminal and a server. According to the present invention a method and a communication system includes a method of retrieving information, including preparing one or more boards each having one or more cards put thereon in advance, detecting if a speaker mark is put on speaker mark putting areas for retrieval each provided on a board, if the speaker mark is detected, taking out information including user attribute, keyword for retrieval or the like from information embedded in the speaker mark and displaying the taken-out information, prompting the user to take actions for specifying a keyword, the actions including sorting out the keyword from the displayed information and inputting the keyword, collating the keyword specified by the user and with board information cached in a client terminal, and displaying in a highlighted manner a card put on the board, the card matching the keyword.

The basic features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims include putting a card on a board, and embedding a speaker mark in the card, to thereby realize digital communications featuring a high visibility. Additional features of the present invention include:

- (1) carrying out communications taking into account of the range of disclosure of a board and card to the public and requirements for allowing a person to join the community;
- (2) being equipped with the speaker assisting function to allow the user to do retrieval with one operation using the speaker mark; and
- (3) templates of boards are prepared so that a card can be moved among the boards that use different templates.

Amended claims 3 and 8 now include details of a retrieval assisting function. More specifically, the claims now include placing a speaker mark of icon type (with data on attributes of a speaker has been embedded in advance therein) on a retrieval processing activation button so as to allow the retrieval process to start. This enables to reduce possible errors in specifying a keyboard for retrieving a board which a speaker can join, an interesting board, a card on which the same opinion has been written or the like and also reduce time therefore.

The above described features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 3 and 8 are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record, particularly Bayrakeri, Tewfik, Macleod Beck and Matsumoto whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Specifically, Bayrakeri, Tewfik, Macleod Beck and Matsumoto fail to teach or suggest preparing one or more boards each having one or more cards put thereon in advance, detecting if a speaker mark is put on speaker mark putting areas for retrieval each provided on a board, if the speaker mark is detected, taking out information including user attribute, keyword for retrieval or the like from information embedded in the speaker mark and displaying the taken-out information as recited in the claims.

Further, Bayrakeri, Tewfik, Macleod Beck and Matsumoto fail to teach or suggest prompting the user to take actions for specifying a keyword, the actions including sorting out the keyword from the displayed information and inputting the keyword, collating the keyword specified by the user and with board information

cached in a client terminal, and displaying in a highlighted manner a card put on the board, the card matching the keyword as recited in the claims.

Therefore, Bayrakeri, Tewfik, Macleod Beck and Matsumoto whether taken individually or in the combinations set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action, fail to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bayrakeri in view of Tewfik and the rejection of claim 8 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Macleod Beck in view of Matsumoto are respectfully requested.

As indicated above the present amendment adds new claim 10. New claim 10 recites many of the same features shown above to not be taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore the same arguments presented above with respect to claims 3 and 8 apply as well to claim 10.


The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 3 and 8.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 3, 8 and 10 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 3, 8 and 10 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.40031X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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